

San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua

IDS 228M: Service-Learning in Nicaragua, 4 credits
Prerequisite: *Conversational Spanish*
Faculty: David Gullette, English Department
Travel Dates: January 2 - 19, 2009
Program Costs: \$1859 includes airfare, food, lodging & excursions

Simmons students will be able to study Nicaraguan history and culture, and participate in community service in the beautiful Nicaraguan Pacific Coast port of San Juan del Sur. The program costs include airfare, food and lodging with local host families, and all excursions. Conversational Spanish is required.

This course starts in Boston in September and culminates in January with three weeks of intensive study and service learning abroad. Students will explore Nicaraguan history and culture through readings and discussions, examine the problems facing the developing Nicaraguan economy, gain an understanding of the region's public health infrastructure, examine the school system, and review crucial environmental issues facing the region. Guest speakers and field trips will be integral parts of the course.

Students will also volunteer in one or more of the following **community services activities**:

- Tutoring local pre-school, primary or high school students in such areas as basic reading skills, music, art (including mural-painting), math, sports, oral history, computer skills, photography and English.
- Collaborating with high school science teachers and their best students to learn more about environmental issues, plus experimental projects such as solar cooking, alternative human waste systems, organic gardening and raising community awareness about environmental issues.
- Working with the local feminist organization "*La Casa de la Mujer*" on issues of concern to women.

Students should be prepared for extensive walking on cobblestone streets, climbing stairs, and hiking on rough, mountainous terrain. The cost of this program includes airfare, food and lodging with host families and a sailboat excursion. Conversational Spanish is required.

For more information, contact studyabroad@simmons.edu or 617.521.2128

